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Sept. 8, 2005

Thomas Navin
Chief, Wireline Competition Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Proposals
to Modify the Commission's Rules Relating to High-Cost Universal Services
Support, CC Docket No. 96-45**

Dear Mr. Navin:

Enclosed is a copy of Verizon's motion to extend the time for filing comments and reply comments in the above-captioned proceeding. Verizon asks for a brief extension, until September 30 for initial comments and October 31 for reply comments. The additional time would allow the parties more time to analyze the various proposals, which would further the Joint Board's efforts to develop a complete, reliable record in the proceeding.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Grillo".

Attachments

cc: Narda Jones

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Federal-State Joint Board on)	CC Docket No. 96-45
Universal Service Seeks Comment on)	
Proposals to Modify the Commission's)	
Rules Relating to High-Cost Universal)	
Service Support)	
)	

MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Pursuant to Section 1.46 of the Commission's rules,¹ Verizon² hereby moves to extend the time for filing comments and reply comments on the Public Notice regarding various Joint Board proposals related to universal service for rural carriers and the basis of support for competitive eligible telecommunications carriers.³ Specifically, Verizon requests that the Commission extend the dates for initial comments by two weeks, so that initial comments would be due September 30. Moreover, anticipating that parties may file variations of the Joint Board proposals or plans of their own, some additional time in the schedule for reply comments to permit full analysis of such submissions would also be appropriate. Verizon proposes that the deadline for reply comments be extended until October 31.

The additional time would allow the parties time to analyze the various proposals, and the potential impacts. In short, the requested relief would further the Joint Board's efforts to develop

¹ 47 C.F.R. § 1.46.

² The Verizon telephone companies are the affiliated local exchange carriers of Verizon Communications Inc. listed in Attachment A.

³ See Public Notice, *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service Seeks Comment on Proposals to Modify the Commission's Rules Relating to High-Cost Universal Service Support*, CC Docket No. 96-45, FCC 05J-1 (rel. Aug. 17, 2005).

a complete, reliable record that will enable it to adopt needed long-term reforms to its universal service mechanisms.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Verizon requests that the Commission extend the time for filing comments on the Public Notice to and including September 30, 2005, and extend the time for filing reply comments to and including October 31, 2005.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A Rakestraw", written over a horizontal line.

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Attorneys for the
Verizon telephone companies

September 8, 2005

THE VERIZON TELEPHONE COMPANIES

The Verizon telephone companies are the local exchange carriers affiliated with Verizon Communications Inc. These are:

Contel of the South, Inc. d/b/a Verizon Mid-States
GTE Southwest Incorporated d/b/a Verizon Southwest
The Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation
Verizon California Inc.
Verizon Delaware Inc.
Verizon Florida Inc.
Verizon Maryland Inc.
Verizon New England Inc.
Verizon New Jersey Inc.
Verizon New York Inc.
Verizon North Inc.
Verizon Northwest Inc.
Verizon Pennsylvania Inc.
Verizon South Inc.
Verizon Virginia Inc.
Verizon Washington, DC Inc.
Verizon West Coast Inc.
Verizon West Virginia Inc.